

APR 29 1964

Approved For Release 2000/04/13 : CIA-RDP70-00058R0002001401

605,670

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# Biggest CIA Question: How MUCH Secrecy?

*The super-secret Central Intelligence agency, which flourishes in cloak and dagger maneuvering in far off lands, now finds itself in the unaccustomed and undesired glare of public attention because of the recent Cuban fiasco. Chicago's American today presents the last of a series which intimately details what the CIA is, what it does, and how much it spends on world intrigue.*

BY WARREN ZIMMERMAN

Washington Bureau, Chicago's American

WASHINGTON—The Central Intelligence agency, one of the most powerful secret organizations in the world, maintains a listed phone number in the Washington telephone directory.

There also is a sign at 2430 E. st. in Washington proclaiming that the unpretentious building fenced off from trespassers is the headquarters of the CIA.

The casual driver along the Virginia side of the Potomac river may pass a large green sign which reads: "Keep Right for CIA building."

The road will take him to a huge building, which is still under construction, but which, nevertheless, already is exceedingly well advertised.

Balance these facts with the following ones:

When a CIA official leaves Washington with important documents, he never carries them himself. They are carried for him by a special messenger via a completely different route, and are returned to the official when he reaches his destination.

## Big Question

When a CIA official wants to destroy office trash, he shreds it and it is burned in the CIA's incinerator. If the papers to be destroyed are confidential, he puts them in a safe until they are collected by a charwoman who has been subjected to a security clearance that takes three months.

A CIA agent is not permitted to explain the nature of his work to anybody, not even his wife.

These items all illustrate one of the most important questions of our intelligence.

When the gravity of the situation requires the

maintenance of an intelligence organization which must sometimes perform illegal acts in foreign countries in order to get information, how much should be revealed about what the organization does?

The late defense secretary, James V. Forrestal, put the problem well when he said:

"In a democracy, intelligence activity is a difficult task. By the nature of its objectives it ought not to have publicity, yet that is one of our difficult problems."

## Liberal Feeling

"Just as during the war, one of our greatest problems is the making available of the news that should be available, and yet denying the enemy the things that could lend him not only comfort but substantial and effective help.

Liberals always will have

a suspicion of the CIA. An organization which must sometimes rely on bribery and blackmail, and for which secrecy is essential, goes down hard with anyone who believes in the Wilsonian doctrine of "open covenants openly arrived at."

Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon, in 1956, expressed a typical liberal feeling about the CIA when he said that anyone who defends the CIA system "defends a spy system that is based upon a police state procedure."

"And it is only three decades since a Republican Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson, disbanded a state department decoding organization with the words, 'Gentlemen don't read other people's mail.'"

Retired Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, first ICA director, emphasized this problem many times during his tenure.

The Liberals, of course, have a real point. There always is an inherent danger in the existence of a large and powerful organization hermetically sealed by official secrecy.

## Highly Secret

The CIA's secrecy is so profound that, by the admission of its director, Allen W. Dulles, not more than 10 or 12 members of Congress know how much money Congress appropriates to it each year. [The figure has been estimated at as high as 2 billion dollars.] The actual sum is disclosed in the budget totals of various government departments. In other words, Congress has delegated to the President almost complete control over the CIA's budget.

Many legislators have criticized this method, among them Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, now Senate majority leader. Mansfield introduced legislation in 1956, and again in 1958, to set up a joint congressional committee, patterned after the atomic energy committee, to act as a watchdog over CIA activities. In its crucial test, in 1956, the resolution failed in the Senate by a vote of 59-27.

## Several Probes

Mansfield argued that Congress ought to have a certain amount of control over an organization which spends so much of the taxpayers' money and is so important to their safety. Opponents of the measure countered that CIA officials testified frequently and candidly to Congress, that the CIA had in fact

been investigated several times by special commissions, and that, anyway, the CIA—like the FBI—is a purely executive agency serving the President in a staff capacity.

The resolution lost partly because it was vigorously opposed by President Eisenhower and partly because it was just as vigorously supported by the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin and other right wing Republicans.

McCarthy's threats to expose "incompetents and communists" led Allen Dulles to circulate a terse memorandum around the agency, it read:

"Anyone giving Sen. McCarthy CIA information will be fired."

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